



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

CHANEY et al.

Art Unit: 1648

Application No.: 09/147,721

Examiner: M. Ibrahim

Filed: February 24, 1999

Attorney Dkt. No.: 108172-09005

For: METHOD FOR PHYTOMINING OF NICKEL, COBALT AND  
OTHER METALS FROM SOIL

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TECHNICAL CENTER 1630-1300

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: May 7, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter the following amendments.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. A marked-up copy of the changes is attached.

1. (Twice Amended) A method of recovering nickel from soil rich in nickel,  
comprising:

(a) growing a nickel hyperaccumulating plant selected from the genera *Alyssum*  
on said soil, while maintaining soil conditions such that the concentration of calcium in  
said soil is from about 0.128 mM to about 5 mM and said pH is maintained below about  
7.0,

(b) allowing said growth to continue until such time as the concentration of Ni in  
the above ground tissues of said plant is over 1000 mg per kg gross dry weight of the  
above ground tissues,